



February 2005

Volume XXXV, No.1

FREE

Charles Farr - Father of the Art Show

By Marion Norberg and
Ruth Passen

Can you imagine complaining that \$99 was too much to pay for rent in the 1950s and early 60s? Well, many artists in North Beach thought so, and moved to Potrero Hill where housing was much cheaper.

Or so we've been told.

Among the newcomers to the Hill was Charles Griffin Farr, a well established artist who became the main spokesperson for the lot.

Farr, an avid reader as well as a prolific painter, was a frequent visitor at the Potrero Branch Library. When he heard that the city was planning to close the Potrero Branch "he was furious," and decided that an "art show would indicate how very important this branch was to the neighborhood," said fellow artist and friend, John Connolly.



Charles Griffin Farr at the Library Art Show, April 1997. *Lester Zeidman photo*

Farr believed that he couldn't ask the main library to keep the branch open unless the neighborhood contributed something, so he planned an art show and demanded that artists join the show. "Get your ass down here" was his call to fellow artisans. Apparently he was successful in his recruiting tactics, for the first ever Potrero Hill Art Exhibit opened in 1955. With hat in hand, he requested from the Art Commission the loan of panels on which to hang the artists' works.

The next annual art exhibit, taking place in April, will honor the show's 50th anniversary and Farr for his leadership in the effort.

The city established the Potrero Branch Library in the 1890s at 1126 Kentucky Street (now Third Street). The

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First Major Transfer of Hunters Point Shipyard to S.F. Completed

At an event at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard January 12, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Mayor Gavin Newsom, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, and Navy Assistant Secretary Wayne Arny completed the title transfer to the first 75 acres of the Navy Shipyard to San Francisco.

"The transfer of this land brings us closer to realizing long-held dreams for the Bayview-Hunters Point Community — dreams of jobs and economic development; a safe, healthy environment with recreation areas for children; and affordable housing and a renewed sense of community," Pelosi said. "I thank Mayor Newsom for picking up where his predecessors left off and making the transfer a priority of his Administration, Senators [Dianne] Feinstein and [Barbara] Boxer for their years of work on the transfer, and my friend and colleague Congressman [Jack] Murtha for helping us finalize the details of the transfer with the Navy."

In 1989, Pelosi won congressional approval for the Navy to "develop a master plan for future use" of the Shipyard. Then in 1990, Congress passed the "Pelosi Amendment" which authorized the transfer of the Shipyard to the city. Over the years Pelosi has secured more than \$260 million in federal funding for environmental cleanup and infrastructure improvements for Hunters Point. The transfer was made possible by the Conveyance Agreement Pelosi helped negotiate



Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and other city and Navy officials applaud Representative Nancy Pelosi at the January 12 event celebrating the title transfer of the first 75 acres of Hunters Point Shipyard from the Navy to San Francisco.

and that the Navy entered into in March 2004 and was approved by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency in April.

"The people of Bayview-Hunters Point know better than anyone the potential of this land, and their contributions will help ensure a brighter future for the Shipyard today and for future

generations," Pelosi said. "I would like to commend the Mayor's Citizens Advisory Committee members who have volunteered so many hours to ensure the people of the Hunters Point Community are represented in the process."

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Two Years After Child's Death, Potrero Avenue Neighbors Are Still Fighting for Traffic Safety

By Fran Taylor

Four-year-old Elizabeth Dominguez, a student at Buena Vista Elementary School, was killed by a Muni truck February 11, 2003, on the sidewalk of 24th Street at Potrero Avenue. Frustrated neighbors and parents, who had long demanded improvements to pedestrian safety there, have continued to press for changes, with mixed success.

Immediately after Elizabeth's death, Supervisor Tom Ammiano convened a joint meeting of parents, neighbors, and city officials. Buena Vista families complained that they had been seeking improvements since 1998. By the end of February 2003, striped crosswalks and countdown signals were installed at 24th and Potrero, prompting comments that it takes a death to get anything done. Two years later, the intersection at 25th and Potrero still lacks even a "Walk/Don't Walk" signal.

Two current projects offer some hope. The Mission Pedestrian Safety Working



Elizabeth Dominguez

Group plan, prepared as a draft in December 2003, is finally being presented to the Municipal Transportation Agency. If

implemented, it could bring major pedestrian safety improvements to the area, but community members who worked on the plan are impatient with its snail-like progress.

Another plan, first presented in August 2004, would reduce the number of car traffic lanes on Potrero to two in each direction, stripe bike lanes, and add pedestrian medians and left-turn pockets from 17th to 25th Street. After a well-attended walk-through and two spirited meetings, the plan seemed to have achieved near consensus. Then Muni threw a wrench in the works by proposing an additional transit-only lane northbound. A compromise, which would add the extra bus lane between 24th and 22nd streets only, is now on the table.

As we go to press, this latest compromise, as well as Muni's proposed fare increase and service cuts, are subject to debate. More next month.

Fran Taylor, community activist and bicyclist, lives two blocks from Potrero Avenue.



Cartoon Sparks Controversy

Editor:

I am a non-religious liberal Democrat who is disturbed by your Dec/Jan front page cartoon. The character obviously believes that the "Lord" is in our bedrooms, doctor's offices, and classrooms.

Why isn't his prayer directed to the American human beings, (politicians, lawmakers, religious leaders, and financial contributors) who have actually affected the introduction of so-called religious values into our bedrooms, doctor's offices, and classrooms?

Get real — George Bush isn't "the Lord."

Joanne Firth
Mississippi Street



Editor:

Congratulations on your first-page cartoon. Just great!

Ruth Maguire
Berkeley, Calif.



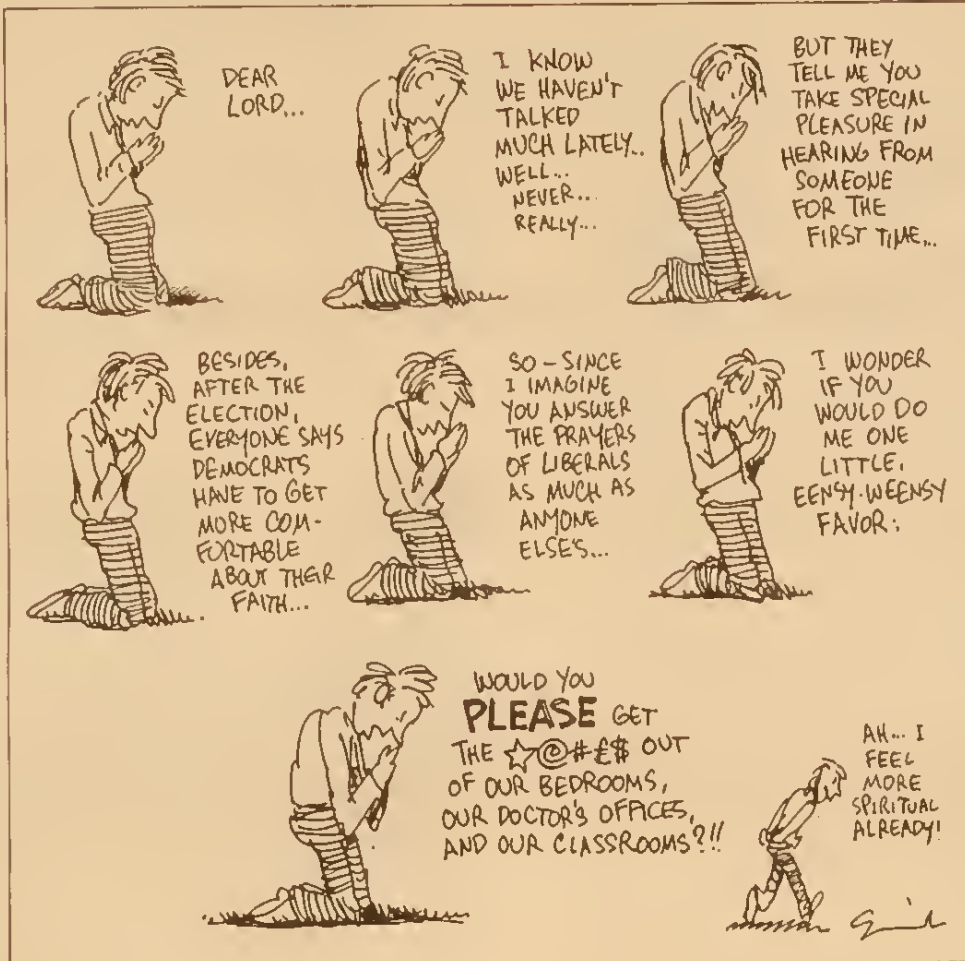
Editor:

Julia Morgan and her Presbyterian friends constructed the Neighborhood House in the early 1920s for the benefit of the residents, who were mostly immigrants.

The Nabe provided a wide variety of useful services, and those services enabled the newcomers to get a good start in their New Country. The Presbyterians did all that because of their deep and abiding love for those less fortunate. The Nabe is still doing outstanding works for the community, Thank God.

In the December issue of the Potrero View your cartoonist should have prayed for Peace on Earth, Goodwill toward Men, rather than limiting his/her prayers to The Bedroom, The Classroom and The Doctor's Office.

As a lifetime resident of Potrero Hill, concerned wife, mother and grandmother, it was extremely offensive to our family to read the Christmas cover issue of the Potrero View.



May the many blessings of this wonderful Holiday Season continue in spite of your shameful front page cartoon. An apology to your readers would certainly be appropriate.

Again, shame on you, Potrero View. You have forgotten your roots.

A.N.B.
De Haro Street

(Editor's Note: Normally we do not print letters that come unsigned and without street address — so please, writer of this letter, don't do it again!)



Editor:

I found the December 2004/January 2005 edition of the Potrero View front page editorial most inappropriate and disrespectful of the holiday season!

The View has allowed an artist to por-

tray the Christian season as a *@#\$ Holiday! I find this offensive. There are four Christian churches on the Hill and you have shown a lack of respect for our faith.

Why not print something appropriate to the season — or why print anything at all!!

Anne Loskutoff
Connecticut Street



Editor:

I must say I knew the View was liberal but the front page for December 2004 seemed to have gone too far. Is this the way most Democrats believe? I don't think so. I'm sure there are some liberals out there who also disapproved this cover.

Now I am not a bible thumping moralist. But it doesn't take much to be called one anyway. A love of truth, keeping the phrase "under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance, keeping Christmas carols in our schools, the right to life, proper man/woman relationships ... just the "traditional" American values. After all, it's the reason why we've lasted so long as a nation.

Ah, I feel more spiritual already.

LaVonne Stewart
Daly City, Calif.



Editor:

The cartoon on the front page was a slap in the face of every pious liberal Jew, Muslim, Christian or any liberal who be-

lieves in and prays to a supreme being in this nation. The implication of the cartoon was that liberals don't believe in God and don't pray — unless they are chastising God.

I am a liberal, I pray, and I voted against Bush because I believe that the Bush administration is a pox on this land and all of God's creation. Don't blame God for weak fools who try to legislate morality in the Creator's name, whatever we choose to call Her/Him/It.

Now, can we quit being divisive and agree that believers and non-believers in God are going to have to work together to prevent such goons from getting elected again?

Arne Hillesland
23rd Street

The Artist Responds

Let's put it this way. Last December had the misfortune to follow last November, when an election took place that threatens to be hijacked by people who would like, on religious grounds, to ban abortion, restrict birth control, criminalize various sexual practices, replace the theory of evolution with an unscientific Biblical doctrine, and, as looks increasingly likely, carry on a foreign policy based on prophecies of Armageddon, the Rapture, and the Apocalypse.

In the aftermath of the election, Democrats were urged to make their own faith a greater part of their politics, to "get more comfortable" discussing their religious views with the electorate. This recommendation disturbs me greatly. The framers of our Constitution established the separation of Church and State for a good reason: they knew from recent history what evils follow when conflicting religious certainties try to impose their political will on a nation. Recent events only confirm the wisdom of the Constitutional policy. Let's leave the regulation of medicine, education, and private intercourse to the civil authorities without regard to religious doctrine.

Incidentally, the words "under God" weren't always in the Pledge of Allegiance. They were inserted there by religious zealots back in the 1950s, when I was growing up. I can still remember my grade-school class wrestling with the unnecessary and metrically disruptive intrusion.

Larry Gonick
Missouri Street

Larry Gonick is a longtime Hill resident and a renowned author and cartoonist whose Cartoon Histories are studied as textbooks at colleges and universities such as UC Berkeley and Yale.

More Letters to the Editor on Page 14



TM Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

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Editorial and policy decisions are made by the staff.
All staff positions are voluntary.
Published once a month except January.

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Help Feed the Hungry

Martin de Porres House of Hospitality,
225 Potrero Avenue (16th Street),
is in need of volunteers.

We serve free food daily — seasoned with beauty and loving kindness — to those in need, and we have fun doing it. Weekly or monthly, even for a few hours will be a great help.

Please call 552-0240, ask for Jim or Charlie

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

SFGH GARAGE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

The garage at San Francisco General Hospital will be built by Nibbi Bros. It is targeted for completion by July 1996. Demolition of the old MUNI repair facility on the site bounded by 23rd, 24th, Utah and San Bruno streets, will begin this month. Specifications require the contractor to prevent the spread of dust in the area, with the streets to be swept at least once daily. Noise levels and air quality will be monitored, and most of the work will be done between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

PICKLE FAMILY MOVES

After many years the Pickle Family Circus is leaving its local headquarters at the old church at the corner of Missouri and 19th streets to move to the West Gym at 755 Frederick Street, where the SF School of Circus Arts will share space with the New Pickle Circus and Make*A*Circus.

JACKSON PARK UPGRADE WORK DELAYED

Despite a decision last year by the Rec and Park Open Space Citizens Advisory committee to award \$100,000 for the upgrading of Jackson Park, the work cannot begin until various city departments decide just how and by whom the work will be carried out. The Potrero Hill Parents Association, which spearheaded the drive for the funds, wants the work done by the California Conservation Corp., which can do it cheaper than Rec & Park. But the City Attorney's office stressed that a number of conditions must be met when work is contracted out, including prevailing wage rates for the workers and set-asides for minority or women contractors or work forces.

STARR KING PARK BOARD ELECTIONS MARCH 9

The area across Carolina Street from Starr King School, formerly the site of public housing torn down to make way for the Parkview Heights development, was dedicated as open space in 1984. A board of directors was elected to oversee a fund for construction and maintenance of a natural park. The plan was to close Coral Road, a curving street that begins and ends on Carolina Street behind Starr King School. An ongoing dispute with a neighbor, who complained that closing Coral Road would deprive him of access to his property, finally ended in a judgment that gives the property owner the right of access to the southern portion of Coral Road, provided that he maintains a gate closing off public access to the road. The Starr King Board of Directors plans to go ahead with plans for a natural open space, with no structures of any kind, no dog runs, no apparatus or benches. A watering system for the plants has been installed. Anyone wanting to be nominated to the Board for the election March 9 should submit a statement of his or her reasons. Board members will be required to attend at least nine out of 12 meetings annually.

MEMORIAL FOR WALTER STACK FEBRUARY 5

Running phenomenon Walter Stack, a 15-year resident of Potrero hill, died January 19 in a nursing home after a long illness. He was 87 years old. He took up running at the age of 58 because he was told it would increase his stamina for long distance swimming. He ran in about 100 marathons, some 50-mile runs, and was an annual participant in the Pike's Peak race. He ran in every "Scenic Scamper" annual benefit run for the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. Walter sailed for 26 years as a Marine Fireman until he lost his Coast Guard papers during the Cold War hysteria. He ended his working years as a hod carrier. A memorial gathering was held January 28 at the Dolphin Club at Aquatic Park. Another was slated for February 5 at the Neighborhood House.

NEW INFANT AND FAMILY FACILITY OPENS

The Oscaryne Williams Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, a new facility in the Potrero Hill Housing Development, was dedicated December 14. Oscaryne Williams, a Hill resident and innovator in childcare services, had been operating a full day program for years in a public housing building. The Mayor's Office for Community Development granted funds to build a new site at 85 Turner Terrace. The site will house various other programs for parents of the youngsters who will be cared for daily. St. Teresa's Church and Presentation Sisters Literacy Program will offer "Fresh Start" reading, writing and computer skills, as well as job preparation skills. The Center for Disease Control has provided a grant to provide increased health awareness, specifically the prevention of HIV infection and unintended pregnancies among women. There will also be on-site assistance from the Department of Social Services to help families apply for benefits, employment and training and child welfare services.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 49ERS CHAMPIONSHIP

From the Connecticut Yankee to the Daily Scoop, the Neighborhood House and Bloom's, 49er fans celebrated the team's Superbowl XXIX January 28, 1995, victory over the San Diego Chargers, 49-26.

AND TWENTY YEARS AGO . . . St. Teresa's Church offered sanctuary to refugees from Central America . . . Good Life Grocery failed to secure a six-month extension on the lease at the 18th Street store, and were forced to seek new premises...Coral Road closing was protested . . . The Nabe was preparing to open a child care center . . . "Luxury condominiums" for the proposed Victoria Mews development were to be priced from \$35,000 to \$50,000.

— Bernie Gershater



Taking on the Profit of Stolen Property

By Sophie Maxwell
Supervisor, District 10

Julia Viera, founder of the Friends of Islais Creek, has worked tirelessly to bring improvements to Islais Creek. One such improvement was the addition of a new, \$2,000 bicycle rack, installed on the south side of the creek. It didn't last long.

Within days of its installation, the rack was gone. The bolts holding the bicycle rack to the cement ground had been ripped off, and the rack dragged away. Viera, a longtime District 10 resident, knew just where to look: Bay Area Metals, a junk dealer located along Third Street.

Sure enough, Viera immediately spotted the bike rack on the company's floor, still sporting the seal of the City and County of San Francisco. When confronted with the clear possession of stolen property, an employee of Bay Area Metals agreed to turn the bicycle rack over to Viera, but questioned who was going to repay the \$30 the company had paid for it.

Sadly, Viera's story is not unique, particularly in southeast San Francisco. I have heard similar stories from homeowners, construction contractors, and local businesses about the rampant theft of their property, particularly recyclable metals such as copper and aluminum. A local homeowner speaks of continual theft of the bronze covers from the sidewalk in front of his house — costing him between \$25 to \$50 to replace each time.

One manager of industrial property estimates that the company has spent more than \$75,000 in the past five years repairing its buildings, vandalized for recyclable metals.



Supervisor Sophie Maxwell

Certainly, buying and removing junk metal is an important service industry for San Francisco. And most junk dealers are legitimate, hardworking business people making an honest living. But clearly more oversight is needed.

I am pleased that my office is an active member of the Bayview Neighborhood Rescue Team, an initiative of City Attorney Dennis Herrera that brings together numerous city departments for code enforcement. One focus of the Rescue Team has been renegade junk dealers.

In addition, I have introduced an ordinance to strengthen the city's regulations for junk dealers. Among other

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GETTING INVOLVED

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each *even-numbered* month at 7 p.m., at 50 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: February 8.

PHAMB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz. Next meeting: February 8.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: February 4 and March 4.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information visit www.potreroboosters.org or call president Tony Kelly at 341-8040 or e-mail him at president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: February 22.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: February 27.

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the S.F. Police Dept. to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments served after the meeting. Next two meetings: February 3 and March 3.

SFGH Rebuild Updates, neighborhood meetings hosted by S.F. General Hospital every second Wednesday, 6-8 p.m., 2789 25th Street, Rooms 2001-2003. San Francisco must rebuild its only safety net hospital and trauma center in order to meet higher seismic safety mandates. Call 206-5784 for more info. Next meeting: February 9.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each *odd-numbered* month at 7 p.m., Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Next meeting: March 15. Volunteer for the Park work days continue *every* month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Next work day: February 19 at the park, Carolina Street, south of 23rd. Mail: Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, S.F., CA 94188-0293. Call 810-4900 for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH

1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday
 Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
 Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm
 Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
 Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
 Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



ATTENTION, ARTISTS!

The San Francisco Arts Commission seeks applications from artists interested in being considered for the 2005 Annual Pool of Qualified Artists for Public Works Projects, associated with city capital improvement projects, including the renovation projects underway at both the Potrero Branch and Visitacion Valley Branch libraries. A portion of the library branch renovation money is designated for public art that will be administered by the Arts Commission. For the library projects, a neighborhood selection panel (comprised of three community members, the branch library manager, and the architect) will review potential artists for the project from a pre-selected pool. The panel chooses three artists who will prepare display boards showing their past artwork and preliminary artwork ideas. These boards will be displayed for public comment, with the community panel making the final selection. The deadline for Artist Pool submissions is March 1. Application materials can be obtained at the Arts Commission website: www.sfartscommission.org/pubart/. For further information, contact Judy Moran of the San Francisco Arts Commission at 415-252-2586.

LIBRARY RENOVATION

Potrero Branch's second community planning meeting took place on Saturday, January 8. "Thank you!" to all who came and participated, since community input is an important component of the renovation process. This meeting expanded on the discussion that took place during the November 2004 planning meeting, and architects unveiled a revised floor plan, incorporating elements that many residents favor. Here are answers to some frequently-asked questions:

What are the plans for the branch? The renovation priorities include making the branch library seismically safe, fully accessible, and technologically updated. Both the public and staff areas will become more functional. The renovation will make the building accessible by adding an elevator and new public restrooms. An addition at the rear of the second floor will provide space needed to offset these new elements in other parts of the building.

When will the branch be closed and for how long? The branch is scheduled to close for construction in summer 2006 (after the new Mission Bay branch opens) and will re-open in 2008. During the renovation, library services will be provided by in-

creasing hours at nearby branches, holding programs at neighborhood community centers, and by bookmobile service.

What will be some of the benefits of the renovated branch? Seismic strengthening; expanded second floor with city views; new furniture, shelving, and materials displays; maximum use of natural light, including a new central atrium and skylight; comfortable seating and a variety of seating choices for quiet reading and studying; accessible program room for library programs with after-hours access for community meetings; a designated Teen Area; a Children's Area designed for homework assistance, children's programs, class visits, early childhood learning experiences, collection highlights, and flexibility; wall space for neighborhood displays; 24-hour book return; more computers with access to library online resources and the Internet; wireless (Wi-Fi) access to the Internet; express self-service checkout stations; new accessible restrooms; new elevator and stairs; more functional staff work areas; improved heating and natural ventilation.

Will the amount of books increase? Overall, the library will have increased shelf space—approximately 10 percent increase in linear feet for the collection (books, CDs, DVDs, videos, audiobooks, etc.)—and materials will be easier to find on new shelves in an improved layout.

Was the community involved in the design process? Yes. A survey was conducted in fall 2004, in which 309 people gave their opinion about materials, facilities, and services at the branch. Two community meetings were held at the branch to discuss conceptual designs (November 2004 and January 2005). The Library Commission will hold a public Peer Review where an independent architect, an interior designer and other professionals will review the design. Then the architects will come back to the community to continue to refine the plans.

Where does the money come from to renovate the branch? In November 2000, the voters overwhelmingly passed a bond measure for \$106 million to upgrade San Francisco's branch library system. The bond's priorities are to reduce seismic risk, meet modern technological needs and current code requirements, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and provide spaces that are responsive to current services, yet flexible enough to meet future needs. In addition, while the

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It's the Revenue, Governor

By Mark Leno
 Assemblyman, 13th District

In delivering his 2005-06 budget, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has been quite clear in his assessment of our ongoing budget crisis: The state is suffering from a spending problem, not a revenue problem. If that is the case, the solution should be rather simple — cut spending.

But what would it take to close a \$9.1 billion gap through spending cuts alone? If we were to fite every state employee, we would save approximately \$8 billion in salary expenditures. If we were to completely dismantle the University of California and California State University systems, the annual savings would be about \$5.4 billion. Eliminate our Youth and Adult Corrections Agency, thereby closing every state prison? Savings: \$7 billion. Clearly, if we were to balance our budget through cuts alone, we would do serious damage to our state's infrastructure.



Assemblyman Mark Leno

Just as clearly, the governor knows that cuts alone cannot be the solution. That is why borrowing, which comprised 40 percent of his solution to the shortfall in the current fiscal year's budget (\$8 billion out of the \$20 billion shortfall), is growing to 66 percent in his proposal for the coming year (\$6 billion out of \$9 billion shortfall). This is in spite of his famous recall campaign pledge to Fox TV's Bill O'Reilly, "I promise you as governor, I will not spend more money than the state takes in," or during the Proposition 57 and 58 campaigns, when he declared to numerous groups, "We will ... cut up the credit cards and throw them away."

So if the governor cannot resolve our "spending problem" through cuts alone, is it possible that his premise is faulty? Might we have a revenue problem? Without considering any new taxes, but merely

returning to the tax-revenue sources the state had in place in the 1990s, the budget deficit would evaporate.

If the vehicle license fee had not been suspended by the Legislature in 1998 and rescinded by Gov. Schwarzenegger on his first day in office, the state would have benefited by approximately \$4 billion each of those years, totaling nearly \$30 billion to date. The cut in the VLF saved the average car owner about \$200 annually, an amount she/he paid every year since 1948.

If the top 2 percent of California's taxpayers were paying at the same rate in state income tax that Gov. Pete Wilson established in the early 1990s, the state would be receiving an additional \$3 billion each year. If the governor were to direct his energies toward closing corporate-tax loopholes and ensuring better collection of existing tax revenues owed the state, we would have another billion dollars or more to close the gap.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, has identified tens of billions of federal dollars owed to California. Our taxpayers, for instance, send Washington \$1 and get 77 cents back; Texan taxpayers receive closer to 92 cents on their dollar. If Gov. Schwarzenegger were to collect just 10 percent of federal funds due Californians, we would have \$5 billion of new revenue. Unfortunately, there is virtually no new federal money in the governor's new budget.

Rather than admit the state has a revenue problem, the governor proposes that we increase our debt load and put it on our children's credit card. Rather than do what is necessary to collect new revenue, the governor proposes taxing the elderly, disabled and poor by limiting their access to life-sustaining services and continuing to starve our underfunded and failing public school system. He also sees no problem with taxing middle-class families by continuing to raise the cost of higher education.

Could it be that by reasonably balancing the 2005-06 budget with a combination of cuts and new revenue without borrowing, the governor would have no substantive arguments for a special election this year? Is it possible that without exacerbating our fiscal crisis the governor would have a more difficult time scapegoating teachers and our public employees as the cause of our problems? There must be some explanation as to why the governor would break his promises, go back on his word and not recognize that there are more sensible and politically feasible ways to return our Golden State to sound fiscal health.

To contact Assemblyman Mark Leno's San Francisco District Office call 415-557-3013 or e-mail him directly at Assemblymember.Leno@asm.ca.gov

Charles Farr

(Continued from Page 1)

branch was later moved to the original Daniel Webster Elementary School on Connecticut Street (between 19th and 20th). The current Potrero branch library was established in June, 1951.

When Farr bought his house on De Haro Street, he turned a downstairs room into a studio, and, because the north light

was so good there he formed a Sketch Club for his friends. The Club grew as more artists heard about it, and in time they were able to acquire the services of paid models. Since Farr's death, the club has been re-invented as the Charles Griffin Farr Memorial Sketch Club.

The 2005 Potrero Hill Art Exhibit will run from April 2 to 30, at the library, located at 1616 20th Street. Further details of a day-long festival will appear in the March issue of *The Potrero View*.



The View at the Library

If you are searching for a story that ran in *The Potrero View* a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through 2000. Also at the library are unbound back issues from 2001 to the present. All these materials are available for use at the library.

Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King

By Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader

In January, we honored the life and legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who challenged the conscience of our country and affirmed our deepest values. He lived his life in the belief that "liberty and justice for all" is not just a pledge, but a fundamental principle that must guide us as a people.

Dr. King was an American hero and one of the greatest Americans ever to live. But his own definition of greatness was, as he said: "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

As we reflect on Dr. King, we are inspired by his words and deeds, but we honor his legacy most when we answer his call to service.



Representative Nancy Pelosi

To honor his strong humanitarian beliefs, we must continue to help with the relief effort in the wake of the tsunamis in South Asia. To honor his passion for fairness, we must work to end racial discrimination and intimidation through racial profiling and voter suppression, and to end racial disparities in health care.

To honor his dedication to economic justice, we must end the national disgrace of one in five children living in poverty, including more than one-third of African-American children. We must provide a quality education for every child and fully fund initiatives that students need to succeed. And we must fight for a better America in which African-American un-

employment is not twice that of the national average.

Dr. King had the ability to find hope in trying times. Even as we face the challenges of our day, we must celebrate the successes we have made as a society. Black families have expanded the middle class. There are more African-American CEOs than ever before, and minority-owned small businesses are a significant part of our national economy.

African Americans are serving at all levels of government, including as Secretary of State. In the 109th Congress, we have 43 African-American members, the largest number in the history of this country. This includes four new House members and the first African-American senator of the 21st century.

This progress was the work of heroes, not merely the tide of history. Great leaders such as Martin Luther King and great Americans all across the country made it possible through their sacrifice and service.

Last month, we lost a magnificent leader and an American heroine, Shirley Chisholm. Shirley Chisholm was the first African-American woman elected to Congress. When she took the oath of office, it was a breakthrough not only for African Americans and not only for women. It was a breakthrough for all Americans.

Shirley Chisholm was unflinching in the face of long odds and unfailing in her willingness to speak truth to power. We are forever in her debt and remain inspired by her example.

(Continued on Page 11)



Bob Whaley

1932-2004

Robert Vincent Whaley

Bob Whaley died December 22, 2004 aboard his beloved houseboat, *The New Hope*.

The sea and all things nautical were a great love in Bob's life, often captured in his artwork. He was a beloved figure on the dock at Mission Creek where he lived for the past twenty years on his houseboat, contributing his friendship and creativity to the close-knit community there.

Besides being a talented artist, Bob wore many other hats during his colorful life. After a stint in the Navy as a radar man during the Korean conflict, he was a lifeguard at the old Fleishacker Pool and later at Aquatic Park.

In the 1960s he worked locally and in Hollywood as an actor, both on stage and in several movies. Bob started up and op-

erated a dockside restaurant, Whaley's Pier 50, a job that paid him for the hospitality that he was used to giving for free. The role that Bob Whaley became most known for was that of unfailing friend to all who had the good fortune to know him.

May we all live as generous and full a life as Bob Whaley.

Robert Vincent Whaley was the loving husband and best friend of Dr. Lee Bender, dear father of Katherine Whaley and of a son, Shawn Whaley, who predeceased him.

A celebration of his life has already occurred. Memorial donations may be made to Swords to Plowshares.

— Kathy Whaley

1943-2005

A Tribute to Tony Alvite

issues surrounding the local community

On January 28 students and school staff — dressed in Hawaiian style shirts (an Alvite specialty) — led a special memorial for him. Speakers included fellow teachers as well as students. Many speakers repeated a favorite phrase of Tony's, "Don't be a fool, stay in school." Three poems in his honor, written by former students of his, are printed below.

A celebration of Tony Alvite's life will take place Saturday, February 26, noon to 5 p.m., at the Enola D. Maxwell School, 655 De Haro Street.

— Jeff Thollander

Tony Alvite
By Pe'i Seva'aetasi

Tony Alvite lived a long, blessed life enough kids to go around and a beautiful wife. From school to work he looked out for me. He lived a good life and left a great legacy. He taught me my history about browns and blacks. He had the soccer team doin' they thing on the tracks. Playin' Santana he was who he was representing his people from dawn til dusk. As he crossed my path in life he stopped for me dusted me off ... helped me off my knees ... Can I get an A or B? ... always pleading for his sympathy He made me try my best ... even if it was a C. His unmeasurable love was found so very odd But to be absent in the flesh is to be present with God.

R.I.P. Alvite
By Keren Ramirez

God saw you were getting tired and a cure was not to be. So he opened his arms and whispered, "Come to me." When we heard you had passed away, it hurt us dearly, cause we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands put to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best.

God's Angel
By Sina Kiliona

God looked around his garden and he found an empty place He then looked down upon this Earth, and saw your tired face. He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest. God's garden must be beautiful He always takes the best He knew that you were suffering He knew that you were in pain He knew that you would never get well on Earth again. He saw the road was getting rough and the hills were hard to climb. So he closed your eyelids and whispered, "Peace by thine." It broke our hearts to lose you but you didn't go alone, for part of us went with you the day God called you home. Forever in our hearts, God's Angel, Mr. Alvite.

In Memoriam

LEONARD PAGE
1926-2005

Teacher and Tinkerer
Missouri Street Fixture for Many Years

In Memoriam

NADIA BAHOLDIN SUSOEV
1921-2004

Longtime Member of Potrero Hill's
Molokan Community

In Memoriam

PIETRO "PETE" FONTANA
1911-2004

Violinist and Craftman
Potrero Hill Resident for 54 Years

Tony spent 25 years of his teaching career at the Enola D. Maxwell Middle School of the Arts (formerly Potrero Hill Middle School). He was a multi-talented professional who had a great passion for teaching, who set high expectations for his students inspiring them to succeed.

Tony was the innovator and creator of the Student Community Service Program unique to Potrero Hill and San Francisco middle schools. Designed and implemented by Tony, this program enabled students to take their talents beyond the classroom to teach and help others while providing them with a life long learning experience.

He also developed a garden area adjacent to the school where students learned to grow food that was then delivered to a Homeless Food Pantry.

Besides pouring himself into teaching his daily classes he was, for many years, the highly successful coach of the Girls Basketball and Soccer teams. Tony also organized the popular yearly School Talent Show and sponsored many after-school bowling, tennis, and soccer clubs.

Within the school setting Tony was very active in Teacher and Union Building committees making every effort to improve the every day life of the school. He successfully led and organized the effort to rename the school from Potrero Hill Middle School of the Arts to the Enola D. Maxwell Middle School of the Arts.

Alvite was a tireless, dedicated and unforgettable teacher who cared greatly for the future of his students and will be greatly missed by family, colleagues and students. Tony also dedicated himself to help the members of the Potrero Hill Omega Boy's Club and to many of the

Imaginative, Cutting-Edge Films at IndieFest

By Julia Segrove

Although the Sundance Film Festival — the internationally recognized showcase for the best in new American independent film — wrapped last week in Park City, local indie film lovers will have ample opportunity to see imaginative, cutting edge films at this year's San Francisco Independent Film Festival (IndieFest), which runs February 3-15 at the Castro Theatre (429 Castro Street) and the Roxie Cinema (3117 16th Street). Founded in 1998 by Jeff Ross, who financed the first IndieFest with his personal credit cards, the festival has become a local favorite for film buffs. Now a nine-day event, the festival easily draws an audience of about 9,000 moviegoers who appreciate the IndieFest programmers' commitment to support and celebrate maverick filmmakers and their work.

This year's festival kicks off at the Castro Theatre with actress-turned-director Asia Argento's *The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things*, a harrowing tale about a boy who is forced to live a troubled life on the road after his teenage mother pulls him from his foster home. Adapted by Argento from San Francisco author J.T. Leroy's cult novel of the same name, the highly charged, provocative film features a soundtrack by Sonic Youth, stunning cinematography by Eric Alan Edwards (*My Own Private Idaho*) and cameos by Peter Fonda, Winona Ryder, Jeremy Sisto, Ornella Muti and Marilyn Manson, yes, that Marilyn Manson. Following the screening, festgoers are invited to attend the opening night after-party at the Swedish American Hall (2170



An Ethel Merman impersonator looks for a back-up band in Michael Ferris Gibson's new film *24 Hours on Craigslist*.

Market Street), where they can chat with other film aficionados, listen to music, dance, watch short films, and enjoy complimentary food and drink. (*Castro Theatre, February 3, 7:30 p.m.*) As usual, IndieFest's slate includes drama, comedy, animation, sci-fi, horror and documentary films from around the world. Several films being presented at this year's fest have yet to snag major distribution deals, which means some titles of truly innovative, amazing movies featured in the festival may not appear on your favorite theatre's marquee anytime soon. This year's festival highlights include the North American premiere of James Erskine and Danny McCullough's *EMR*, which recently received the Jury Award for

Best UK Feature at London's Raindance Film Festival. Shot in the UK and San Francisco, Erskine and McCullough's debut feature is a clever, dark thriller about Adam, an epileptic conspiracy theorist who suffers from blackouts, seizures, and horrifying visions. Convinced he's being manipulated by outside forces, Adam's reality becomes more and more fractured as he struggles to unravel the reasons behind his frequent, violent nightmares and the identities of his tormentors, who may or may not be human. (*Roxie Cinema, February 8, 7 p.m.*) Another film of interest is Vladimir Vitkin's *X,Y*, a feature film based on Bay Area author Michael Blumlein's 1993 pulp novel. Vitkin's debut feature is a

genderbending sci-fi tale of transmigration that focuses on Frankie, a New York stripper, who collapses on stage one night. When she awakes, Frankie believes she has exchanged identities with a male patron of the club and is now a man living in the body of a woman. In the festival program notes, readers are cautioned that *X,Y* "is not a film for everyone. In fact, a word of caution should be issued to viewers: this is a film that tells a very dark story about identity and domination with blood, sex and piercings." In other words, *X,Y* is adult entertainment for adventurous, inquisitive viewers and should definitely not be missed. (*Roxie Cinema, February 5, 11:45 p.m., and February 13, 9:30 p.m.*) The festival also features several documentaries by Bay Area makers, including the World Premiere of local gonzo documentarian Aron Ranen's *Power and Control: LSD in the 60s*, a fascinating documentary about Ranen's peripatetic journey to find the secret history of psychedelics. From legitimate experiments conducted at Harvard Divinity School to interviews with Ram Dass (aka Richard Alpert), former editor of *The Realist* Paul Krassner, and Monkey Mike, a North Bay researcher who fed LSD to caged primates in his backyard, *Power and Control* takes viewers on an entertaining, enlightening trip to unravel the history, mystery and stealthy appeal of LSD. (*Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, February 4, 7 p.m., and February 13, 2:15 p.m.*) And who isn't familiar with Craigslist? If you aren't, then be prepared to find out about what many call the "secret engine that drives the Bay Area economy."

(Continued on Page 20)

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SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY. All events are free and open to the public and take place at the Main Library (unless stated otherwise) 100 Latkin Street at Grove. For more information call 415-557-4277 or visit www.sfpl.org.

Choosing to Participate: Facing History and Ourselves: An interactive, multimedia exhibition highlighting three compelling stories in our nation's recent history: *Little Things are Big*, *Crisis in Little Rock* and *Not in Our Town* designed to deepen our understanding of democracy and spark creative approaches to membership in such. Skylight Gallery, through March 20.

Participation: Visions and Voices of Bay Area Students: Original art works from students in grades 7-12 that illustrate the importance of choices we make in our daily lives and the value of choosing to participate.

Bay Area Portraits: Everyday Acts of Courage: Celebrating local people who have chosen to make our community a better place in small and large ways. Both of the above exhibits are companion pieces to Skylight Gallery exhibit, but are located in the Jewett Gallery through March 20.

The Maltese Falcon at 75. This exhibition, from February 1 through March 21 in the library's International Center, is a tribute to Dashiell Hammet's most famous novel and to the city of San Francisco which he captured brilliantly and unforgettably. A related program, *An Evening with The Maltese Falcon: An American Classic at 75*, on Thursday, February 24, in the library's Koret Auditorium, 6:30-7:30 p.m., will feature Julie Rivett, Hammet's granddaughter, who will discuss the novel's place in American culture.

Celebrating the Life of Mary Ellen Pleasant. Supervisor Aaron Peskin will present a proclamation declaring February 10 Mary Ellen Pleasant Day in honor of the woman who became known as "The Mother of Civil Rights". Authors Michelle Cliff, Karen Joy Fowler, Lynn Hudson and Deborah Major will also be featured. Koret Auditorium, 6-7:45 p.m. An accompanying exhibition is being held in the library's San Francisco History Center, February 1-March 16.

Large Screen Videos, Thursdays at Noon, Koret Auditorium
From Swastika to Jim Crow (1999, 57 min). Jewish academics flee Nazi persecution and become mentors to another oppressed group: African Americans in the segregated South. February 17.

The ACLU: A History (1997, 57 min). A look at the controversial group which has managed to offend or inspire Americans across the political spectrum. February 24.

ARTISTS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE ON POTRERO HILL are invited to participate in St. Gregory of Nyssa Church's Second Annual Arts and Crafts Fair to benefit the Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (GAIA) on Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. A portion of each artist's profits will be donated to GAIA, whose mission is to partner with religious organizations in resource-poor countries for HIV prevention and care. GAIA works primarily in the sub-Saharan nation of Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world with the eighth highest rate of HIV infection. St. Gregory's Church is located at 500 De Haro Street at the corner of Mariposa. For more info contact Kerry Bostrom at kerrybostrom@hotmail.com.



By Mary Wasserman

ART AT GOAT HILL PIZZA. The paintings of Susan Godstone will be on display through March 31. Godstone, who comes from London, has lived in California for 10 years; her work reflects her keen interest in the human form and color experimentation. Reception for the artist at Goat Hill, Connecticut and 18th streets, February 13, 1-3 p.m.

Attention Artists! Goat Hill Pizza is looking for local artists to show their work at the restaurant. If you are interested, please call Alicia Wong at 415-641-1440.

WHY WE LOVE BASEBALL. Friends of the San Francisco Public Library Benefit Presentation. Join Vida Blue, Phil Frank, Scott Ostler, Eric Solomon and others in a conversation on "Why We Love Baseball." Tickets are \$25.00 and include complimentary goodie bag with a copy of the *San Francisco Giants Cookbook*, post-event reception with refreshments, baseball art auction and door prizes. Wednesday, February 2, 7 p.m., Genentech Hall, UCSF Mission Bay Campus. All proceeds benefit the Mission Bay Branch Library Campaign. For more information call 415-626-7512 ext. 103.

RANDALL MUSEUM, 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above Castro and 14th streets). Museum hours are Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free. For information call 415-554-9600 or visit www.randallmuseum.org

Drop-in Art and Science Workshops: \$3 fee per child or \$5 fee for parent/child combo. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. *Mushroom Charms* – celebrate mushrooms by making a mushroom charm you can wear, February 5. *Pop-up Valentines* – design a one-of-a-kind Valentine for someone special, February 12. *Clay Pots with Faces* – Inspired by African-American pottery of the 19th century, kids can create clay pots with faces, February 19.

Heron's Head in Winter: Guest speakers Dana Lanza and Ben Francisco will present an evening lecture concerning Heron's Head Park, formerly known as Pier 98, a 24-acre restored wetland at the base of the Hunters Point Power Plant. The park supports over 78 species of birds annually and is an important stop for migratory bird along the Pacific Flyway. Thursday, February 17, at 7:30 p.m.

San Francisco Middle School Science Fair: Thirty public and private schools participate in this city-wide program designed to promote and recognize the efforts of student scientists. Entrants represent the best of over 4,300 projects done at the schools this year, with top 7th and 8th grade award winners progressing to the regional Bay Area Science Fair. Awards presented on Saturday, February 27, 1-5 p.m. with the free exhibit continuing through March 4.

Winter in the Wetlands: An interactive exhibit celebrating California's wonderful wetlands and its inhabitants. Seven young artists from San Francisco will have their designs for Duck Stamps on display during the exhibit. Through February 12.

FARLEY'S COFFEE HOUSE, 1315 18th Street, open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. For more information call 415-648-1545, or visit newsletter@farleyscoffee.com.

Saturday, February 5: Reception for Artist of the Month Rob Aiman, 7-9 p.m.
Sunday, February 13: An evening of haiku with Jeffery Goldsmith, 7-9 p.m.
Saturday, February 19: Rock away the afternoon with Salt Peter, 4-6 p.m.

ART ROSENBAUM SPORTS WRITING SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to Bay Area high school juniors or seniors who have written outstanding sports related articles for their high school publications. Entries should be submitted by April 15 to Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame, 235 Montgomery Street, 12th floor. For more information call 415-352-8827 or visit www.bashof.org

SUBJECTS OF DESIRE. An exhibition of works by two artists with developmental disabilities, Evelyn Reyes and Camille Holvoet make drawings of a few (and only a few) of their favorite things. Through February 17, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, 1-6 p.m. Creativity Explored, 3245 16th Street at Guerrero. For information call 415-863-2108 or visit www.creativityexplored.org.



KLEZMER MUSIC: Is Everything Old New Again? A talk and demonstration on Klezmer music with Stuart Brotman and Josh Horowitz who will answer this question and many others as they play musical examples, rare recordings, and lead a lively discussion. Thursday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street between Scott and Pierce streets. Library membership and all events are free and open to the public. Closed on Fridays, Saturdays and Jewish Holidays. For more information and hours call 415-567-3327 or visit www.bjesf.org.

EMPEROR NORTON. At this month's meeting of the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, the story of Joshua Abraham Norton, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico will be told by historic storyteller Peter Moylan Tuesday, February 8, at the University of California Laurel Heights Campus, 3333 California Street. The Society's monthly meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month starting with a reception at 7 p.m. The program is free and open to the public. For more information call 415-775-1111 or visit www.sfhhistory.org

CRISSY FIELD CENTER, 603 Mason at Halleck in the Presidio. For more information call 415-561-7690 or visit www.crisseyfield.org

Saving the Planet One Step at a Time: Lecture and book signing by Dr. John Francis, author of *Planet Walker*, which chronicles his effort to create a more sustainable world by transcending cultural, social and political boundaries. Appropriate for adults and teens. Saturday, February 12, 2-3 p.m. Free.

Kids on Trails: A moderate 2/3-mile walk using a new guide designed especially for young visitors to learn more about a rare habitat. Appropriate for families with children ages 5 and up. Free, but call 415-561-7752 to register. Sunday, February 20, 1-2:30. Meet in front of the Officer's Club, Building 50, Moraga Avenue.

Children's Art Exhibit: The annual "River of Words" exhibition featuring a collection of art and poetry focusing on the environment from children around the world will be on display at the Center's Gathering Room Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., through March 31. Free.

SAN FRANCISCO'S CASTRO DISTRICT. The S.F. History Association presents a visual presentation in which viewers can watch a quiet Irish-Catholic neighborhood add "World's Gay Mecca" to its list of attractions and see opposites learn to live in harmony. Guest speaker will be Strange de Jim, a frequent contributor to Herb Caen's column and author of a photo history of the Castro. Thursday, February 24, Mission Dolores School Auditorium, 16th and Church streets. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with refreshments; meeting begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for non members. Call SFHA at 415-750-9986 or visit www.sanfranciscohistory.org for more information.

NATURE'S PHARMACY: The Healing Power of Plants. In this exhibition, on view from February 25 through October 16, visitors will be taken on a virtual journey to Africa, Asia, and South and North America to learn about medicinal plants, their many uses, and the issues that surround them. Conservatory of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. General admission, \$5; youth 12-17, seniors, and students with ID, \$3; children 5-11, \$1.50; 4 and under free. Closed on Mondays. For information call 415-666-7001 or visit www.conservatoryofflowers.org.

RETIRED & SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. RSVP volunteers will be sorting and packing boxes of food at the Food Bank, 900 Pennsylvania Street on Thursday, February 3 and/or February 10, 9:30 a.m. RSVP encourages anyone over the age of 55 to join them and meet other senior volunteers in the fight against hunger. For more information call 415-731-3335.

FUTURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY: Expert Answers to Your Questions is the discussion topic at this month's meeting of the Older Women's League, Saturday, February 26, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Call OWL at 415-989-4422 for more info and meeting location.



Instructor Jonathon Palmer with Christian Maddox and Kathleen Oliver at an after-school art program at the Neighborhood House.

Nabe Kids' Talents on Display at SomArts Bay Gallery

SomArts Bay Gallery, in collaboration with the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, will present "My Life in the Sunshine: This is My Community" during the month of February. The exhibition will celebrate the children of the Neighborhood House community, featuring their self-portraits, photos, drawings, "geneograms" (collages of their daily life), as well as their music and performances.

The participants will be the children who attend the Nabe's after-school programs, as well as students from the surrounding schools.

This exhibition is scheduled to coincide with Valentine's Day, when there will be a special event for the kids at SomArts. These are children at risk, whose lives are full of violence and fear. This exhibition is

meant to act as an opposing force, to help them explore the good parts of their lives, to help increase their self-esteem, and to show the larger community of San Francisco what they are capable of accomplishing.

A reception will be held on Thursday, February 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. And on Valentine's Day, February 14, there will be a performance from 4 to 6 p.m.

A Dance Party to close the month-long event will take place Thursday, February 24. The public is invited to all events.

The gallery is located at SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, near Eighth Street. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 12-4 p.m.

For more information call 552-2131.

Dan Hoyle's New Show Florida 2004: The Big Bummer at The Marsh

The Marsh, San Francisco's breeding ground for new performance, announces that Dan Hoyle, creator of *Circumnavigator*, returns to The Marsh stage for a limited run of his new show *Florida 2004: The Big Bummer*.

In a piece that is as raw and immediate as recent political history, Dan recreates the frantic energy, hilarious characters, and sudden disappointment that the 2004 election was for 49 percent of America. *Florida 2004: The Big Bummer* plays Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, February 3 through February 26 at The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street (between 21st and 22nd streets) in San Francisco.

In *Florida 2004: The Big Bummer*, Dan Hoyle chronicles the 10 days he spent as a volunteer in Tampa, Florida working sixteen-hour days on the Kerry campaign. With his trademark brand of "journalistic theater," Dan transforms into the drawl-tongued truck drivers, vitriolic Vietnam Vets, and earnest but spacey West Coast volunteers he met along the way. A riveting showdown between Michael Moore and a phalanx of protesters, an inspired dance piece about the emotional ups and downs a door-to-door canvasser experiences, and a giddy Election Night pre-victory party that quickly turned sour are all recreated in a hugely comic and heart-breaking show.

Chashama Presents in New York, Williams College in Massachusetts, and Stanford University. A Potrero Hill native, Dan is the son of master comic and actor Geoff Hoyle, whom he appeared with in *Hoyle In One* at Humboldt Center Arts in Arcata and at the Dance Palace in Point Reyes in 2003. In March, Dan goes to Nigeria to study oil politics for a year on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Florida 2004: The Big Bummer shows Thursday, Fridays, and Saturdays through February 26. Tickets are \$10-\$15 (sliding scale). For reservations call 415-826-5750 or visit www.ticketweb.com. For more information visit The Marsh website www.themarsh.org

Potrero Hill native Dan Hoyle chronicles his 10 days as a volunteer for the Kerry campaign in *Florida 2004: The Big Bummer* opening at The Marsh February 3.

Shawn Ferreyra photo



Dan Hoyle's first solo show, *Circumnavigator*, played to packed houses and a twice-extended, three-month run at The Marsh in fall 2004. *Circumnavigator* also toured various colleges and venues across the country, including The New School, and

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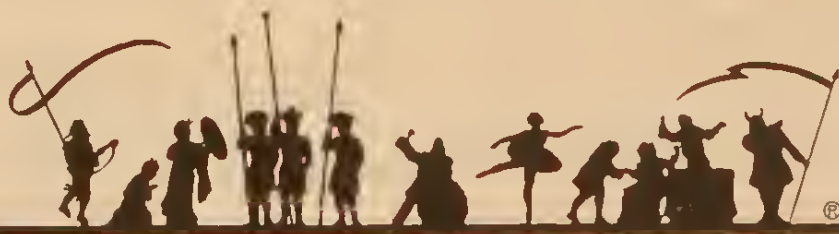
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Performing Arts Roundup

By Sandhya Dirks

Move Your Body

After thirteen years on Divisadero Street, 848 Community Space is finally moving to a larger location. When you name your organization after an address, a move is a sure time to rename the space, and so it is here, with the new location at 1310 Mission Street becoming CounterPULSE. Yerba Buena Center hosts The Dance Floor Benefit to raise funds for this new space. The Dance Floor Benefit gathers together ten acclaimed companies including AXIS Dance Company, Circo Zero, Robert Moses' Kin and many others. To see a unique cross-cut of San Francisco's dance joined together for a good cause, come to the benefit, Saturday February 12 at 8 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission Street. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling 415-978-2787 or visit www.YBCA.org.

Kidhood

If you are one of those who keeps the NPR going in the background while you do the dishes, water the plants, or make the bed, the name Sarah Cahill will be known to you as a KALW Radio Host. But did you know that the multit talented Cahill is also a pianist? In a program of 20th century music Cahill probes our wonder years — the mystical and free time we look back at as childhood. *Playdate* is described as a high spirited event combining classical piano recital with theater, audience participation, and general jovial spirits. It features music written for and about children, including selections from Schumann's *Album for the Young*, Debussy's *Children's Corner Suite*, and Frederic Rzewski's *Snippets*. We think of childhood as a time of lightness and whimsy, a time when imaginary friends were not imaginary, when the sky could be orange and the grass blue, when music made us skip without thinking and sing without care. It seems somehow a time of freedom, not just before the day to day doldrums of adulthood, but a space carved out from before we thought about how people saw us or even how we saw ourselves, and just saw. Join Sarah Cahill and other children ages eight through eighty for a *Playdate*, Sunday February 6 at 4 p.m. at 1021 Sanchez Street. Tickets are \$12-15 and are available at the door or online at www.rivcm.org.

Encore Encore Ole

Last fall the denizens of the Hill, the Mission, and all San Francisco thronged to the Brava Theater Center to hear the sweet sounds of the Mexican Bolero trio, Los Panchos. With a lineage that goes back to 1944, this trio has passed down traditions through family and friends, and while the musicians may have changed the musical spirit has remained the same. Los Panchos plays to a wide audience, from octogenarians who spent their youth with the romantic backdrop of Bolero, to Mission Hipsters who have discovered the sentimental and romantic sounds. If you missed them the first time, your second chance comes February 11 through Sunday March 6, Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 and 8 p.m. at the Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th Street. Tickets are \$28-35 and can be purchased by calling 415-647-2822 or visiting www.brava.org.



Anne Frank Superstar

Anne Frank Superstar is the story of ten-year-old Ethel Spiliotes who has the great misfortune of being cast as Anne Frank in a TV sitcom (*Let's Be Frank*) about the young diarist who wrote of her years hidden in an attic during WWII. Written and performed by Betsy Salkind, *Anne Frank Superstar* is a "hilarious satire of a television industry that will go to any length for commercial success, even

trivializing one of the most famous victims of the holocaust" (*Boston Herald*). Salkind is a comedian (perhaps best known for her matzah-eating squirrel impression) and TV comedy writer. One night only at The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street, Wednesday February 9, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8-\$12 (sliding scale). For reservations call 415-826-5750 or e-mail tickets@themarsh.org

Creation/Curation

Dance Mission Theater brings us two evenings of varied performance, in music, dance, and physicality curated by Ali Tabarabai, reminding us that curators play a role in far more than just visual art. Tabarabai brings us *3 Drops of Blood* featuring performers including Janice Garrett and Dancers, Accordion Works and The Toids. Janice Garrett's company, characterized by wit and craftsmanship, was recognized by *Dance Magazine* a year ago as one of the "Twenty-Five to Watch." Accordion works is, get this, an all-accordion ensemble, but without the pig calling and the polka dancers. The Toids, despite their Indie rock name are more of a world music collaboration, fusing Balkan music with jazz and other influences. More performers will contribute to these two evenings, Friday and Saturday, February 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. at Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th Street. Tickets are \$16 dollars in advance and \$19 at the door. For advance tickets call 415-273-4633.

Rite of Spring, etc.

The Rite of Spring, created by Vaslav Nijinsky in 1913, changed dance forever. It was, as its title suggests, a rite of passage from formalized, rigid ballet into a landscape of free and avant-garde movement. Criticized by dancers as unnatural to perform, Nijinsky's dance was protonatural. He pushed the possibilities of movement as form further than they had ever dared to go. In referring to this dance, Michael Sakamoto's *The Rite of Spring, etc.*, conjures an honored lineage. As such his dance promises to combine frenetic dance, butoh movement, multiple languages, comedy, melodrama, dream imagery, and pop music. Dance is a human canvas and the most impassioned performances go beyond words to a transcendent body language. To see if *The Rite of Spring, etc.* lives up to its name, see the show, Monday and Tuesday February 21 and 22 at 8 p.m. at NOH Space, 2840 Mariposa Street. Tickets are \$10-15. Call 415-621-7978 or go to www.theatreofyugen.org.

Naughty AND Nice

In the mood for a little Cab-a-ret? Well, you're in luck, because Dr. Kathleen Maguire and the San Francisco Gay Men's chorus present *Cabaret: Tongue in Cheek*, prompting us to ask the question where should your tongue be, except in somebody else's cheek? The Doctor and the choir will be joined by Tony nominee Sharon McKnight as they present a raunchier, more risqué version of their annual cabaret. Cabaret, raunchy and risqué? Well, I never! To be titillated and quite likely entertained, see the show on Saturday February 5 at 8 p.m. and Sunday February 6 at 2 and 7 p.m., at the ODC Theater 3153 17th Street. Tickets are \$20-25. For information visit www.sfgmc.org.

Hearts and Crumbs

February, in addition to housing the most Hallmarky — and for those of us singletons, cloyingly annoying — holiday in the world, also includes a more important theme. February is African American History Month. In recognition of this the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre presents playwright Lynn Nottage's *Crumbs From the Table of Joy*. A story about a displaced Southern family smack in the center of New York City circa 1950, the play deals with their struggles with both integration, and balancing small town sensibility against the backdrop of New York. Both an exploration of a time of political and racial turmoil, and a personal story about one families strife after the death of their mother, *Crumbs* has been described by the New York post as "a pairing between Tennessee Williams and Lorraine Hansberry, a memory play about a black family, a glass menagerie in the sun." If this unexpected hybrid intrigues you, see *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter Street. Performances run from February 3 through the 27 Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25-32 and can be purchased by calling 415-474-8800 or online at www.lhtsf.org.



Grand Standing

Stand up and be counred, or at least stand up and walk over to the San Francisco Comedy College for free comedy shows. The College is perhaps the only place where taking a break from class means reading Heidegger. No but seriously folks... The college offers classes for beginners, advanced students and professional comedians, and works to create a comedic community, rather than to depend on the usual big name talents. The Stand up project offers a little bit of everything, from political commentary to anecdotal humor, from improvisational riffs to classic one liners. But why all of this description? Didn't you read the part where it mentioned that these weekly Saturday shows are FREE? The series starts off on Saturday February 4 at 8 p.m. at the SFCC Clubhouse, located at 414 Mason Street. For more info call the college at 415-921-2051.

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Growing Pains for City's Environmental Justice Program

By Matt Isaacs
Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

When the city's Department of Environment took on the monumental task of managing one of the largest environmental justice programs in the country, no one said it would be easy.

The Department was hardly out of its toddler years, the concept of environmental justice barely older, yet the ambitious staff quickly accepted the challenge of reducing the effects of decades of polluting activity that has been visited on the Potrero Hill and Bayview - Hunters Point neighborhoods.

Now five years old, the environmental justice program, called "EJ," is beginning to show results—and signs of strain. The program has doled out more than \$8 million in grants to local nonprofits for an array of mostly-completed projects, including the distribution of energy-saving devices and fresh food, the installation of solar panels on homes and businesses, job training, and education campaigns focusing on the area's public health and environmental challenges.

Yet a recent budget analyst's report criticized the EJ program's high administrative costs and its financial oversight of grant recipients. And in numerous interviews, many of the nonprofits which received grants complain of too much red tape. Despite the grumbling, the EJ program has moved forward with plans to expand its mission, nursing the remainder of a \$13 million allocation it received from the state, along with outside funds, to serve the beleaguered southeast corner of the city for another five years.

"The environmental issues in these neighborhoods won't go away overnight," said Gloria Chan from the Department of Environment. "Hunters Point is a superfund sight. The power plants are still up and running. We are going to continue devoting money to that area. New people will move in and out, many of them minority, and we will continue to educate, continue to mitigate."

Environmental Justice

The city's Southeast quadrant has been plagued with various toxic hazards for more than a century. The northern half of Bayview, once called "Butcher Town," was home to slaughterhouses, and cattle and goats used to graze throughout the Southeast. The Potrero Power Plant, which today is the largest single source of polluting air emissions in the city, was

once a coal degasification unit. The expansion of the shipyards along the Potrero and in Hunters Point brought thousands of homes to the area, along with a veritable soup of radioactive substances.

The Department of Environment was created by former Mayor Willie Brown in 1996 with a staff of seven. It has since grown to 70 people. The Department attends to a variety of issues, ranging from garbage collection to "green" construction to pesticide control.

But a key component of the Department's mission is the Environmental Justice Program, which was initially funded as a result of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's sale of its Potrero Power Plant to the Mirant Corporation in 1998. In compensation for the likelihood that Mirant would run the plant harder, producing more pollution, the State Legislature required PG&E to pay San Francisco \$13 million to help alleviate the ill effects on the community.

The Department's EJ team was created in 2000, with a mission "to improve the quality of life for San Francisco residents who bear a disproportionate burden of environmental contamination in their neighborhoods and to empower them to advocate for implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies which would protect their interests."

The Grant Program

After more than a year of consultation with stakeholders and a formal grant application process, the program gave generously to a number of local nonprofits, many of which had never before received significant amounts of public funds. Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates received \$1.5 million to train 25 local residents in carpentry and solar panel installation, and paid for installations at 38 houses.

San Francisco Community Power Cooperative also received a \$1.5 million grant to provide energy efficient appliances to residences and local businesses. It also trained and employed community residents to conduct energy audits and install energy-saving devices. The organization has leveraged its initial grant to garner another \$1.5 million from outside sources, a portion of which contributed to the commissioning of this article.

Other grants went to help finance the creation of a health center, a public information center on the naval shipyard, an

(Continued on Page 15)

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Jackson Park Offers Latchkey Program & Seeks Volunteers for Youth Baseball

The San Francisco Recreation & Park Department staff at Jackson Park is committed to offering a variety of programs to best serve the Potrero Hill and surrounding communities.

Currently, we are looking for up to 20 boys and girls, ages 6-12 years old, who would benefit from supervision and structured programs in our Latchkey Program. This service is offered Tuesday through Friday from 2 to 6 p.m. at a cost of \$15.00 per child per month. This program offers daily homework help, nutritious snacks, karate classes, music program and much more.

Also, as Spring rapidly approaches, we are seeking boys and girls interested in playing baseball in the San Francisco Youth Baseball League. This league is sponsored by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Dept., the San Francisco Fire Dept. and the San Francisco Police Dept. Participation in the leagues is determined by grades as follows:

- 1st - 2nd graders
- 3rd - 4th graders

- 5th - 6th graders
- 7th - 8th graders

Interested parents or other volunteers may be needed to assist with coaching and transportation needs to keep the teams functioning.

Additionally, the Infant-Toddler Playgroup at Jackson is a drop-in session scheduled for Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

There is also a Playgroup located at Potrero Hill Recreation Center on Monday from 11 a.m. to noon.

Jackson Park attractions include:

- Two baseball fields
- Large play structure (separated by ages)
- Lighted tennis court
- Large community garden

We also welcome donations of under-used bicycles (These bikes are used by the after-school program children for exercise!)

Please direct any inquiries or suggestions to Norma or Mike at Jackson Park-554-9527.

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

(Continued from Page 5)

More than 40 years ago at the March on Washington, Dr. King challenged us with words as true today as when he spoke them. He said we must "remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism....Now is the time to make justice a reality for all God's children."

Let us honor Dr. King by building a

country of opportunity that values our beautiful diversity, where all people have the chance to realize their God-given potential.

Let us honor him by building an America that makes 'justice a reality for all of God's children.' And let us honor Dr. King's service with our own.

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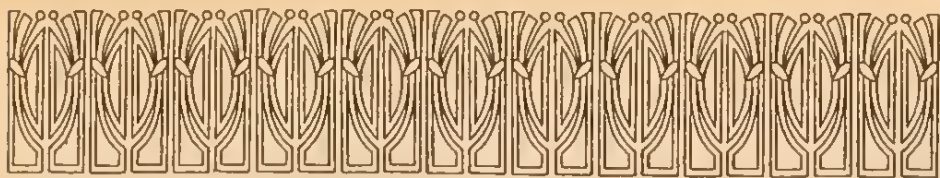
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Nail Salons May Contain Hidden Health Risks

By Lorraine Sanders

Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

Amid bottles labeled Pink Champagne Dreams and Dewey Fawn, many Bay Area women — and an increasing number of men — treat themselves to a weekly manicure/pedicure in one of the ubiquitous, low-cost nail salons peppering city streets. But this pleasant ritual may pose hidden health risks that are largely visited upon a single ethnic population.

California's 34,000 licensed nail technicians — a group that's 85 percent Vietnamese and overwhelmingly female — face health hazards due to overexposure to toxic chemicals.

According to Danette Schmidt, a former nail technician who heads the nail technology program at the San Francisco Institute of Esthetics and Cosmetology, "If you do it for eight or 10 years, you can get really sick from the chemicals."

A recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report lists 26 potentially dangerous chemicals found in nail products. Most are highly volatile and evaporate easily at room temperature.

The EPA report says that prolonged exposure to any of these chemicals could be harmful, with possible health effects ranging from minor rashes to cancer. But the extent of health risks to salon workers is largely unknown.

Every one of the 32 nail products examined by the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a nonprofit organization that investigates environmental and health hazards, contained at least one ingredient not yet studied by the Cosmetic Ingredient Review panel, the industry body responsible for cosmetics reviews. And while the Food and Drug Administration responds to consumer complaints, manufacturers largely determine the safety of their products.

"Without that basic info, it's impossible to do any more safety assessments," said Sonya Lundet, who helped develop EWG's report "Skin Deep."

What is known could give some consumers and salon workers cause for concern. According to the EWG, 69 percent of the nail products it studied contained ingredients known to pose cancer risks, and 28 percent contained ingredients linked to reproductive problems, including birth defects.

However, Douglas Schoon, vice president of science and technology at nail product manufacturer Creative Nail Design, said the EWG's study is misleading. He argues that manufacturers test chemicals extensively before selling them to the public, and that every chemical is dangerous if used improperly. "People use the word toxic, but rubbing alcohol and salt water are toxic," he said. "Whether it's toxic in the way that it is used is another question."

Still, information on Material Safety Data Sheets — which federal law requires manufacturers to provide upon request and businesses to have for each potentially hazardous chemical used in their operations — clearly states that many nail products are dangerous to both humans and the environment.

In partnership with the University of California, San Francisco Community Occupational Health Project (COHP), and School of Nursing, the Asian Law Caucus has visited more than 100 Oakland nail salons to assess environmental and safety issues and provide education about workers' health and legal rights.

Nan Lashuay, COHP's director and an assistant professor at U.C.'s School of Nursing, says the project will begin offering clinical examinations to nail technicians in 2005. The hope is that these exams will provide data on the number and kinds of illnesses nail workers contract and whether these problems are connected to their working conditions.

Small nail shops are notoriously tight-lipped about their operations. That's because a large proportion of them are family owned and operated by recent immigrants to the United States, said T. Van Do, a community advocate for the Asian Law Caucus.

Many Southeast Asian workers come to the United States without the English language skills necessary for most jobs, and the nail-technician-licensing exam is available in Vietnamese. Once licensed, most people work for relatives or family friends. In talking with Oakland nail technicians, Do found few who understood their rights or the possible health hazards of their jobs. But even if they did, she is not sure they would act differently.

"The nonconventional employer-employee relationship really complicates matters," she said. "In many instances, it makes it really difficult to assert their rights, even if the workers know they have rights."

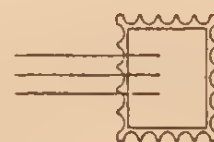
If workers do understand the health risks they face in salons, they are likely to consider them a necessary part of the job. Ventilation systems, fans, air purifiers, and masks are expensive, and salons that provide them inevitably have to raise their rates — and risk losing customers — to remain profitable.

Any nail salon offering services for \$16 or less has to be skimping on safety to make ends meet, says Kelly Hensley, owner of Potrero Hill nail spa Mani Pedi. At her salon, where a manicure/pedicure costs around \$40, every nail technician has two sets of tools and an individual sterilizer.

Danette Schmidt disagrees that most safety violations come from cheap nail salons. "Some say it's only the Vietnamese,

(Continued on Page 21)

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Reflections on the Future

By Bill Slatkin

Peering down San Francisco's Third Street, toward Cesar Chavez, it's difficult to imagine a broad, tree-lined avenue, featuring brightly colored trams gliding noiselessly on their shiny rails, bringing customers to shops, boutiques and cafes arranged in neat rows or stacked in quaint clusters along scrubbed clean walkways — all promising to unfold over this stretch of hard-core industrial real estate in the next few years.

"Your Proposition B sales tax dollars at work," explains a big wooden sign sporting the Muni logo. It's planted prominently on an uneven mound in the midst of chopped up terrain: dirt hills, mud holes and upended chunks of broken asphalt, surrounded by caution signs, orange traffic cones and a fleet of back hoes, power shovels, jack hammers, pavers and dump trucks.

It takes an active imagination - a leap of faith wouldn't hurt - to envision the future awaiting this dusty, axle-breaking patchwork of thoroughfare. I make the effort, because my wife and I have settled on this "hood." We've made our new home in one of the recently built loft-style condos on a street named for one of the states, along the acreage that proclaims a Potrero Hill heritage, yet really belongs to the progression of blocks that reach up from the Bay and link to San Francisco's blue collar past. It is here that workers toiled in shipyards, machine shops, warehouses and a cement plant, and relaxed with a shot and a beer in one of the dark saloons, or nursed a stained ceramic cup of Maxwell House in one of the aging coffee and sandwich shops.

At times I wonder if we made a smart choice, perched, as we are, adjacent to the Potrero "projects" and enclaves of "homes" converted from old vans and trucks. For what we paid to get this tiny piece of terra (not so) firma, we could have purchased ... well, I won't finish what is simply a trite, overused comparison.

Rather, I'll point out that we don't experience this part of the city the way we enjoyed, say, Cathedral Hill, or Duboce Park, or even the Outer Richmond.

Want to pop to the corner for a quart of milk? Forget it.

Accustomed to choosing a Muni line based on planned destination downtown? Let's see: there's the #15. Oh, that's it.

And explaining how to get here can be a challenge because some streets terminate abruptly to make way for freeways and overpasses. Plus, we have to reeducate people who have the naïve notion that numbered streets run in sequence and in parallel. Visitors are confused when instructed to find the Dogpatch district by locating the intersection of Third Street and 22nd.

We worry that the completed devel-

opment will not come to pass. Sure there's a big biotech center growing on the landfill behind the ball park, but what if that industry suffers a fate similar to that which befell the dot-com business? Suppose this lagging economy proves to be a drag on the development now underway? Could our Proposition B sales tax dollars stop working for us before our new mayor cuts the ribbon on the light rail?

But those doubts give way to the thrill of living in a neighborhood that is changing rapidly, a flower that is beginning to bloom. And we're fortunate that the miracle of urban transformation occurs quickly now. It can be witnessed, start to finish, by anyone interested enough to pay attention.

Had we been alive and paying attention during the days of San Francisco's fabled Barbary Coast, might we have known what was in store for our neighborhood? Could we have imagined the dirt paths giving way to paved streets? Could we have pictured the imposing concrete structures destined to replace the creaky wood buildings that housed lively saloons and noisy brothels? More importantly, would we have lived long enough to observe all, or even most of, the process?

And trying to peer into the other time direction along, say, Montgomery Street, I attempt to imagine the fish markets and cobblers shops that stood, perhaps clumsily, on ground that now supports the tall, graceful architectural icons that stand for San Francisco the world over. That change took place over a period that spanned more than two generations, beyond the years of the old timers; failing to impress the younger folks who had no appreciation of what had gone before.

But in the 21st century, we have the privilege of experiencing both the past and future. Still standing are the aged, vacant buildings, some with broken windows and graffiti-scarred bricks, that recall the hard-labor history of the Third Street corridor. We'll bear witness to their destruction or renovation as the neighborhood, that now exists only on the drawing board, begins to materialize before our eyes.

We stretch our imagination a bit to see the near future. And we see ourselves as modern day pioneers. Pioneers? In San Francisco?

Sure. We're suffering the hardships: a four-block walk to get a decent sandwich; the inability to "catch" a passing cab from a street corner. Indeed, our location near San Francisco's dusty and rusty east coast, is still somewhat remote for an urban center.

But, like the pioneers of old, we consider these sacrifices to be the price we must pay to reach Paradise.

In this case, of course, we wait for Paradise to come to us.

Bill Slatkin, a freelance writer, and his wife live on Indiana Street.

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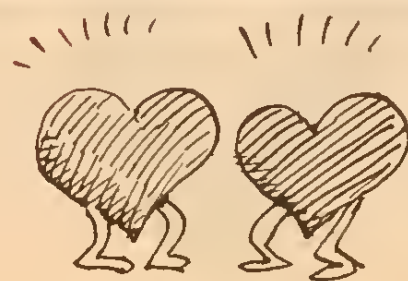
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Edward Hatter, Executive Director

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noon pilates pre-natal mat class
8pm pilates springboard/props class

Thursday

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6pm pilates springboard/props class
7pm pilates springboard/props class

Saturday

9am pilates pre-natal mat class
10am pilates springboard/props class

Sunday

10am pilates mixed-level mat class
drop-in limited to 6 students

We Get Letters

Social Security is Secure

Editor:

It is my understanding that there is NOTHING wrong with the Social Security System. It has worked and is well funded through the year 2042.

I have been listening to Air America radio for the facts on this. The Bush Administration is trying to take this money away from hard-working people who may need it at retirement or if they are disabled earlier.

They want the working Americans to invest in the stock market where who knows what will happen to it? It sounds great, but in reality the only people who will gain are experienced investors and Wall Street. Is it any wonder big business loves this administration? What about regular working Americans who are not knowledgeable about stocks and investing? Do they have the time, or the where-withal to learn about this?

It is flat wrong for the Bush administration to lie and say this system is in crisis to scare people into agreeing with them. There is no crisis with social security. To learn more go to thereisnocrisis.org.

Paula M. Capocchi
Corte Madera, Calif

of junk piled in the back of it and the same blonde girl that is always starting public arguments with her boyfriend about drinking, drugs, and money! I see them do their runs up and down the street between cars and such, and I call the police every chance I get, but I'm starting to think that isn't enough.

Please help me with the answers to these questions. And I know now to hold on to the paper and jot down some dates, addresses, and phone numbers.

I can't wait to get my next issue. Thanks for the great job of keeping me and others informed!

Carla
Kansas and 17th streets

Readers Seek Some Answers

Editor:

Let me start by saying that for the first time in years I have actually sat down and read your paper...I love it!

After living back East for almost 12 years, my husband and I have moved back into the house on Kansas Street in which I grew up and which has been in our family for as long as I can remember. Maybe it's because I am older (30) now, that I have concerns about what goes on around my neighborhood and that's the reason I am writing this letter. Here are some of my concerns:

Now that the culinary academy has opened and EVERYONE on my block has signed the petition for "restricted parking/permit parking" for residents. But what happened? Why haven't we heard anything about this matter? Let me tell you, parking around here is no picnic!

What is with the big hole! When are we going to come to a decision to make our community an actual community?!

Do we not have a neighborhood watch?! Do people not care? We have hookers and scandal in front of our homes! People are having sex in cars, leaving used condoms on the ground, not to mention needles!

Lastly, what is with all these people leaving their stolen cars, and stripping them piece by piece to place the parts in the other stolen car they have parked next to it. I see the same gray truck with tons

Editor:

I am a Hill resident up on Wisconsin and 20th and we have a major problem here. Over the last six-seven months, there have been an obscene number of car break-ins. In front of our house alone there have been six break-ins. Within a few doors of our house, another three or four break-ins have occurred. Often, there is nothing in the car to steal.

My wife's car was recently broken into by someone slicing through the top costing us over \$2400 to repair. All this for a cell phone charger!!

One of the problems is that most people do not report these crimes. My wife had to call three different times to finally get through to the police non-emergency line. Each time she had to wait over 45 minutes on hold.

I recently called the Bayview Police Station to try and find out what to do about all this. I told the officer I was interested in generating community awareness about the issue. I asked if there was a community liaison officer with whom I could speak. Well, I got the total run around and ended up leaving two messages with some random person who called back asking for my case number and couldn't help me with anything else. When I asked about starting a community group, she said "I think there are two already up there" but could give me no information on who these groups were. She finally suggested calling the housing authority "up on 25th and Wisconsin." Well, as far as I can tell there is no housing authority there and when I looked online to try and find someone to contact in that agency nothing came up.

I know this city has many more pressing issues to deal with but every day I now expect to find my car broken into for the third time in six.

Can you help? Anyone in the police department you know? Neighborhood groups? Desperate on the Hill,

Ben Aiken
Wisconsin Street

P.S. Thanks for putting together such a great paper and resource!!! Love this neighborhood!

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Growing Pains

(Continued from Page 10)

ecological classroom, and various food programs. While there were outright successes, many of the grantees had mixed results, with some unable to achieve their goals at all, and others spending far more than initially expected to complete their projects.

The Department of Environment has also been criticized for spending too much of the grant funds on administrative and overhead costs. In a report released in December, Harvey Rose, the city's budget analyst, noted that the EJ program had devoted roughly \$1.5 million, taken from the state funds as well as garbage fees and general fund money, to staff EJ salaries and office space, while paying \$7.4 million to grant recipients, bringing administration costs to 18.3 percent of total money spent. "That's a lot for administration," Rose said at a Board of Supervisors hearing where he introduced his report.

Rose was even more critical of the Department's future plans, in which overhead costs would consume as much as 53 percent of the remaining state money.

Anne Eng, head of the EJ program, disputes the budget analyst's numbers. She says the department used less than 10 percent of state funds for its grant program, and that the revenue included from garage rates and the city, which bumped overhead costs up to 18 percent, should never have been included. "That money supports functions beyond the grant program," she said. "It's apples and oranges."

Eng has similar objections to the budget analyst's assessment of EJ's long-term plans. No more than 10 percent of the state money will pay for administrative costs, she says. The program has another \$1 million coming in from garbage rate revenues, and has already collected more than \$700,000 in outside funding, a small sum compared to what she expects the Department to raise over the next five years. "And this is all in support of grant money going into these communities," she said.

Rose also questioned the Department's oversight of its grant recipients. Though a Board of Supervisors committee in 2002 asked the Department to hire an outside consultant to evaluate EJ program grantees, no one has been retained to date. The De-

partment blames the delay on miscommunication, and plans to commission an independent audit later this year.

The Nonprofits

Closer scrutiny of the various projects may have saved a few dollars. The Department paid nearly \$200,000 to TetraTech, an environmental consulting firm, to install solar panels and wind turbines at Potrero Hill Middle School before the project fizzled.

The Housing Conservation & Development Corporation received a \$300,000 grant to provide energy-efficient appliances and insulation to residences throughout the area. By its own reporting, the organization worked with 300 households, which comes to \$1,000 a house, but the nonprofit says it actually provided less than \$500 in products and labor to each client.

Several nonprofits, however, complain of too much oversight. "They give a grant and expect you to run your program like the Bechtel Corporation," said Saul Bloom, executive director of Arc Ecology. "We've had contracts from Redevelopment, from the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, and we've never had complaints about our work. These folks want every receipt."

Dana Lanza, of Literacy for Environmental Justice, says she bumped heads with the Department as well. Earthquake concerns pushed her "living classroom," an ecological education center, out of Heron's Head Park in the Bayview to McLaren Park in the Excelsior district. But neighborhood opposition there forced Lanza to seek yet another home for the facility. Seismic studies would cost \$25,000, which Lanza offered to pull from her original grant budget, but she says it took six months for the Department to agree to the change. "It was very frustrating," Lanza said. "It was like, either this project is going to die or we do this. Call it caution or mistrust. But it took forever. It was ridiculous," Lanza said.

Where some nonprofits see friction, however, Gloria Chan of the Department of Environment, sees a natural tension between grantee and grantor. "This money comes from taxpayers, and we have to make sure these things are carried out," Chan explained.

Despite the growing pains, Lanza says she respects the EJ program's approach. "It's an art and science to be a good grant officer," she said, "and they're learning. They work from their hearts. Everyone there cares about the environment, and they have a real sensitivity to justice issues."



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Starr King School Mosaic Mural Inspired by Civil Rights Heroes



Fourth grade students of Starr King Elementary School on Potrero Hill have created a 6' high x 9' wide mosaic mural celebrating California Civil Rights Heroes at their school which is located at 1215 Carolina Street in San Francisco.

The heroes depicted in the mosaic include Thomas Starr King (for whom the school is named), Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta (leaders in the fight for human rights for the people who are workers in the fields producing fruits and vegetables), and Enola D. Maxwell, longtime peace activist and former Director of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

The dedication ceremonies take place on Wednesday, February 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the school. Students who took part in the creation of the mural were inspired because of their studies about the Civil Rights Movement.

San Francisco Board of Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, who represents District 10, is expected to attend the event. She is the daughter of Enola D. Maxwell. For more information on the event, mosaic or school, contact 312-6488.

Old Refrigerators Can Cost Cool Cash

By Daniel Porras
Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

In a store window on the corner of Cesar Chavez Street and Bryant is an ancient refrigerator with an old-style door knob for opening. It's wrapped with Christmas lights and ribbons. "Rancho Grande Appliances," reads the sign above the window, "The Other Way of recycling." The small store is packed with used appliances. "That one's not for sale," said Miguel, the man inside Rancho Grande, gesturing toward old fridge in the window. He takes a visitor through a tight maze of used refrigerators to one that is for sale, a battered Gibson 'Frost Clear' model. One hundred and seventy five dollars. Cheap for a fridge.

Buying a cheap, used refrigerator, however, can end up costing a bundle down the road. Older refrigerators tend to have leaky seals and use big motors that guzzle power. A 15-year-old fridge can cost as much as \$100 dollars more per year to run than a comparable new, energy efficient model, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. That adds up, in about five years, to the price of a new, average-size household refrigerator, which can cost as little as \$500 at Strand Appliances, located at 18th and Connecticut streets. Strand sold hundreds of these and similar models as part of a San Francisco Community Power energy-saving refrigerator rebate program, which closed at the end of last year.

These days, with advances in technology and some manufacturers going beyond government efficiency standards, paying a premium for a new refrigerator can be well worth the extra cash.

"You can easily save a hundred dollars per year on your energy bill," says Jennifer Thorne Amann, a senior associate at the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy. Amann, co-author of *Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings*, says a new refrigerator averages about 500 kilowatt hours per year, compared to 1,200 to 1,400 kilowatt hours per year for many older models. A refrigerator made in the 1980s, she says, can use as much as 60 percent more energy than a new fridge that meets the standards of the Energy Star program. "The long-term energy savings pay off," Amann says about buying new.

Appliance dealers are also quick to say that a new refrigerator will pay for itself in

energy savings. But what about the new, deluxe, double-door, wood-paneled Sub Zero model? "That one is \$6,800", says Michael Cherin of Cherin's, an appliance store on Valencia Street in the Mission. The giant designer fridge, about the size of a San Francisco walk-in closet, definitely won't shave any money off your energy bill. Cherin walks a visitor past the Sub Zero to a more sensible model, a shiny white Amana. It's a 19-cubic-foot top freezer unit with the Energy Star sticker, which indicates that the appliance is up to 30 percent more efficient than the standards set by Department of Energy. Top freezer units are more efficient, explains Cherin, because the cold freezer air can fall down to the fridge without pumps or motors. For \$650, compared to the \$175 used Gibson, the ultra-efficient Amana will pay itself off in no time, says Cherin. Plus, he adds, it's "ozone safe".

Many old refrigerators are saturated with ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), like Dupont's Freon, which causes destructive free radical reactions high in the atmosphere. Some might argue that it is good to reuse old refrigerators so they don't end up in landfills, leaking Freon and other unsavory chemicals. But both Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Sanitary Fill Company will recycle old (working) appliances for free. When recycled properly the fridge will be taken to a facility where the CFCs can be 'reclaimed'. As an added bonus, both PG&E and the San Francisco Department of the Environment will pay \$35 for pre-1991 fridges, including at-home pick it up. According to Jessica at PG&E's Smarter Energy Line, "a lot of people have decided to participate in the recycling program."

The problem with buying a new refrigerator, according to appliance sales veteran Cherin, is that "10 to 15 years is about the life of it." You probably won't see today's latest Frigidaire, for example, wrapped in Christmas lights in the window of Rancho Grande 70 years from now. Environmentally-concerned consumers have a lot to consider when making a simple refrigerator purchase, including increasing built-in obsolescence, and potential impacts on landfills, the ozone layer, and demand for polluting power plants. But with the price of energy today, according to Cherin, "it's no longer even a deal to get a used fridge for free."

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Hunters Point Shipyard

(Continued from Page 1)

Pelosi has worked to minimize disruption to Shipyard tenants, particularly artists; to include a local hiring preference to provide opportunities for environmental restoration and construction contracts for residents of the Bayview-Hunters Point community; and to establish continuing responsibility for environmental remediation with the Department of Defense.

"The Hunters Point community and the Shipyard arts community are very much aware and appreciative of Congresswoman Pelosi's efforts over these many years," Scott Madison, Chair of the

Mayor's Hunters Point Shipyard Citizens Advisory Committee, said. "This agreement would not have happened were it not for Congresswoman Pelosi's tenacity and hard work."

"For more than 15 years, we worked to transfer a safe and clean parcel of land to the community," Pelosi said. "As we continue to work to make the shipyard a place of promise, my top priority will remain ensuring the protection of the health and environment of the Bayview Hunters Point community."

This article was contributed by Nancy Pelosi's S.F. District Office.

Waging the War on Clutter

"It's gotta be in here somewhere!"

By Cynthia Arnold

Staying organized nowadays is a daunting task. We're bombarded by "stuff." Some of it comes through our mail slots, some come home with our kids, and some of it just piles up in our offices. It perpetuates a feeling of being out of control and an inner state of chaos.

It's no secret that we're happier and work more efficiently when we're in control of the space around us. But how to accomplish this is the \$64,000 question.

If you've decided it's time to get a grip on your clutter, there's a beginning, middle and end to the process, like any linear project. If your plan of attack is organized, so too will be the outcome.

The first step is analyze why you want to get organized, what may be holding you back, and it's important to get there. Ask yourself, "Were my parents packrats and I need to break the cycle?" "Am I moving soon and need to purge unnecessary stuff to save on moving expenses?" "Has my excess stuff become a safety hazard?" "Do I shun houseguests because I'm embarrassed by the chaos of my home?" The answers to these questions can be revealing.

Most folks know what their specific issues are regarding clutter. The liberation begins when they decide to do something about it. Here are some tips that can move the process along.

Create a realistic plan to transform your space. Make sure you schedule the process in your planner. If you don't plan your objective, you'll probably have a matching set of results. Scheduling the project reveals your commitment to actually do it. Keeping appointment with yourself to tackle the problem is a sign of determination and a willingness to change.

Next, dive into the pile and begin the process. If the project is large, break it up into smaller pieces. This phase is interest-

ing because you're examining the "stuff of your life." Objects reflect who you are, or were. Purging and sorting requires you to evaluate their current importance. Since life is a series of milestones — weddings, graduations, first report cards, etc. — don't cling to insignificant minutia. Doing so is disrespectful to those things which truly "special." Remember, your outward space is a reflection of your inner self.

Once you've purged your space of unnecessary clutter you can determine if you need additional storage containers. Buy products that are practical and easy to use. If something is difficult to use, or access, you won't use it.

Accumulating clutter is also determined by the speed of your decision-making process. If you don't use it, love it or need it for tax or legal purposes, get rid of it. After you've purged, sorted and arranged your remaining possessions, try to make a commitment to do so once annually. Just as you change the batteries in your smoke detectors on a routine basis, clearing away clutter should become a regular ritual, too.

Clutter release pays for itself. Making emergency purchases for items that you have but can't find dips into your disposable income. Contributing a portion of your mortgage or rent expense to store "stuff" in a spare room, robs you of usable space. Most people find that the process is like lifting a weight from their shoulders.

Everything in the universe has a purpose and a natural order. When we lose sight of our essence and goals, we lose the ability to be centered and purposeful. By committing ourselves to de-cluttering both our space and time we're redefining our own purpose, and establishing the natural order of what's important in our lives. A fulfilling life should be a journey toward simplicity and a victory over confusion. By letting go of the unnecessary, we're creating an open space for something new, or the joy of appreciating something truly cherished.

Cynthia Arnold lives in San Francisco and is the owner of Get It Together Organizing Services.

Stolen Property

(Continued from Page 3)

provisions, the ordinance will require junk dealers to obtain yearly permits through the Police Department and to maintain a "Buy Book" available for inspection by law enforcement agencies. The Buy Book is an important tool. It must contain detailed information about each transaction, including the name and driver's license or other valid California-issued identification card number of the person selling the junk, a detailed de-

scription of the item purchased, and a statement indicating either that the seller of the junk is the owner of it, or the name of the person he or she obtained it from.

Local residents and businesses have clearly identified the theft and sale of stolen property — and the role junk dealers play in this illegal activity — as an issue that must be addressed. With increased enforcement through the Bayview Neighborhood Rescue Team and new legislation, we are answering the call.

Supervisor Maxwell's Junk Dealers Ordinance will be heard by the Board of Supervisors in the coming weeks. Please contact Greg Asay in her office at 554-7672 or greg.asay@sfgov.org for more info.

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Left to right: Michele Hangee-Bauer, office manager; Carl Hangee-Bauer, ND, LAc; and Amy Day, ND, of the SOMA Acupuncture and Natural Health Clinic.

Jonathan Ingersoll photo

Hill Naturopathic Doctors Among First Licensed in State

By Michele Hangee-Bauer

Pioneering the effort to get naturopathic doctors licensed in California, Dr. Carl Hangee-Bauer of Potrero Hill's SOMA Acupuncture & Natural Health Clinic has just received his naturopathic doctor's license—one of the first licenses issued and the culmination of a 15-year struggle for legitimization. He was also recently appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger to serve on the Advisory Council to the Bureau of Naturopathic Medicine.

The clinic will be celebrating this victory and introducing their new naturopathic doctor, Dr. Amy Day, at an open house February 11, from 5 to 8 pm at their clinic, 1615 20th Street (across from the library). Fellow Potrero Hill residents are invited to drop by to network with friends and neighbors, while meeting the other practitioners who work at SOMA Acupuncture.

So what is a naturopathic doctor? Basically, NDs have 4-year postgraduate training similar to an MD studying anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathology, oncology and other medical sciences. Where naturopathic doctors are unique is that they are also trained in natural therapies like nutrition and herbal medicine, homeopathy, counseling, physical medicine, and other natural therapies that standard medical schools simply don't teach. Some NDs choose to specialize, which is why Dr. Hangee-Bauer became a licensed acupuncturist and combines Chinese medicine with his naturopathic practice.

Dr. Amy Day, recently from Portland, will be offering full GYN services, such as annual exams, Pap tests, and infertility workups in addition to her general naturopathic practice. "When women experience GYN services from a naturopathic doctor, they'll feel listened to, and they'll learn so much about their health compared to typical annual exams. We're very excited to be the first in San Francisco to offer this," says Dr. Day.

California is only the 13th state to license naturopathic doctors, and according to the January 17, 2005 L.A. Times, "Because of its population, influence and openness to alternative therapies, the naturopathic profession considers California's action an important step to legitimizing this little-known field."

What is a typical visit like? The biggest differences between a visit to a naturopathic doctor and a conventional medical doctor is the amount of time spent and the emphasis on treating the cause of the problem rather than just the symptoms. NDs typically spend more than an hour with each new patient, taking a comprehensive history and performing physical exams. In addition to questions about

health history and family history, NDs get to know other aspects of a patient's life, like diet, exercise, sleep, home life, social life and emotional well-being. This enables them to recommend a comprehensive treatment plan that addresses the patient's health concerns in the context of the whole person. Patients often report that they feel listened to for the first time and that their healthcare issues are effectively addressed.

With the new licensure, SOMA Acupuncture and Natural Health Clinic can now expand services to include gynecology, vitamin B12 shots and other injectables like intravenous vitamins. Lab tests such as bloodwork, salivary hormone tests, food allergy tests, digestive function and cardiovascular testing will all become common services as patients realize that they can now utilize a naturopathic doctor for primary care, but with an emphasis on natural medicine and prevention.

Schedule a free consultation. If you can't come to the open house, you are invited to stop by another time or call 415-643-6600 to schedule a free 15-minute telephone consultation with either doctor. You can also go to www.SOMAacupuncture.com for more information or sign up for their free newsletter full of healthy naturopathic tips.

Six Principles of Naturopathic Medicine

Naturopathic medicine is defined not by its therapies, but by its philosophy which is guided by:

- **Trust the Vis Medicatrix Naturae**
Trust in the healing power of nature and the body's inherent wisdom to heal itself.
- **First Do No Harm**
Utilize the most natural, least invasive and least toxic therapies first.
- **Treat the Whole Person**
View the body as an integrated whole in all its physical and spiritual dimensions.
- **Identify and Treat the Causes**
Look beyond the symptoms to effectively address the underlying cause(s) of illness.
- **Doctor as Teacher**
Educate patients in the steps to achieving and maintaining optimal health.
- **Prevention**
Focus on promoting health and wellness and preventing disease.

The doctor says:
"It's time to party!"

SOMA Acupuncture & Natural Health Clinic is having an open house to celebrate:

- Licensing of naturopathic doctors in Calif.
- Dr. Amy Day joins the practice
- 15+ years in business – 7 years on the hill

Come and meet the doctors and other great practitioners, share our success, socialize with your neighbors, and have some fun.



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Library News

(Continued from Page 4)

bond pays for a significant portion of the costs, it does not pay for furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library will raise \$16 million from private donations to pay for these costs. Call 415-626-7512 ext. 103 to help with the Friends campaign.

How much does construction cost for the Potrero Branch? The project has an estimated construction budget of \$2.6 million to renovate the existing building, not including furniture, equipment or soft costs.

How do I find out more information about the Potrero Branch renovation? A copy of the proposed floor plan is available at the Potrero Branch Library. You can also visit www.sfpl.org. Click on "Branch Library Improvement Program," "Potrero Branch," and then on "Design Plans" or other links for further information. Also, stay tuned to this column for updates. Questions about this project can be directed to the Branch Library Improvement Program at 415-557-4354, or send email to BLIP@sfpl.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LIBRARY'S ANNUAL ART SHOW
We are well into planning for the 50th Annual Potrero Hill Artists' Exhibition, which will be held at the library in April. Last year's exhibition was very well received and featured over one hundred

thirty pieces of original artwork by neighborhood artists. If you are a Potrero Hill resident and would like to volunteer and help in preparing for the exhibition and the opening day festivities, please contact me at the library at 415-355-2855.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Come and hear "The Harpist from the Hood", featuring renowned Bay Area harpist Destiny Muhammad on Thursday, February 24 at 10:30 a.m. The program will be presented as part of San Francisco Public Library's Black History Month Celebration, and is funded by the Friends of the Library. For children of all ages.

Don't miss our regular weekly and monthly programs:
Evening storytime on Tuesdays, February 1, 15, and 22 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

Evening films on Tuesday, February 8 at 7 p.m.: *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*, *Angus and the Ducks*, and *Hen Hop*. For ages 3 and older.

Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, February 10 and 17 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.

Note: The room in which these programs are held is not accessible by elevator. Also, please contact library staff in advance for group reservations.

Jensu Woo
Potrero Branch Library Manager

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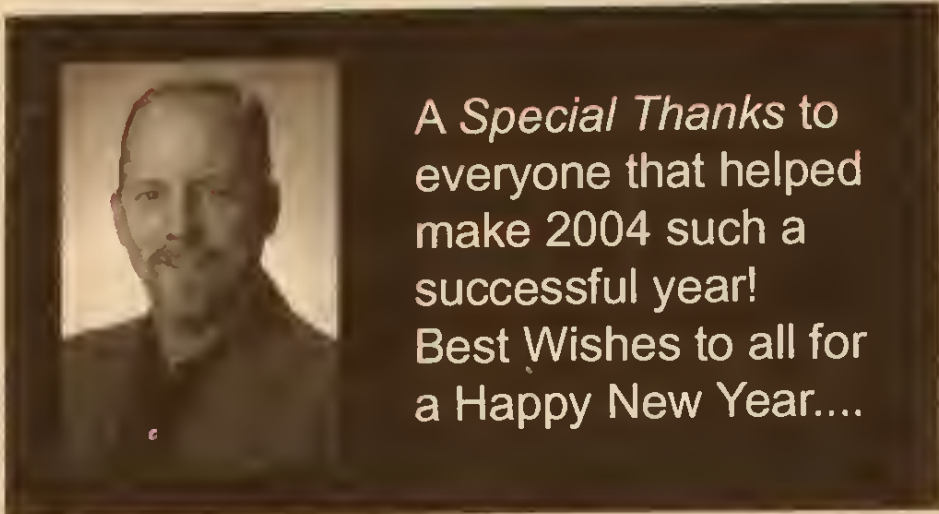
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A Special Thanks to everyone that helped make 2004 such a successful year! Best Wishes to all for a Happy New Year....

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IndieFest

(Continued from Page 6)

Michael Ferris Gibson's *24 Hours on Craigslist* is an amazing documentary about why and how this Bay Area phenomenon impacts our personal and collective lives. According to Gibson, everybody's got a Craigslist story, so he decided to make a film about the place where you can find a job, apartment, car, couch, dance lesson, gay sperm donors or just about anything worth owning or selling. In the film, Gibson captures one random day on Craigslist, which just happens to include an Ethel Merman impersonator looking for a back-up band; a strange fellow hoping some hot babes will check out his basement sex party; guys looking for wives and a host of other delectable Craigslist stories and Bay Area eccentrics. (Roxie Cinema, February 5, 4:30 p.m.)

San Francisco's most prolific and often controversial producer, Henry Rosenthal (*Off the Charts: The Song Poem Story*), returns to IndieFest with the San

Francisco premiere of his latest documentary, *The Devil and Daniel Johnston*. Directed by Jeff Feuerzeig, this amazing documentary is a stunning portrait of Daniel Johnston, a manic-depressive genius singer/songwriter/artist whose life and work has influenced several musicians, including Nirvana's Kurt Cobain. Over the years, stories about Johnston's unsettled life — much of which has been spent in mental institutions or in the care of his parents — have become urban legend and fertile source of material for this heartbreaking yet life affirming documentary. Recently screened at the Sundance Film Festival, where it was hailed as a masterpiece, *The Devil and Daniel Johnston* explores the artist's life, fragile soul and musical genius through Super-8 films, comic book style drawings, writings, performances, interviews with friends and family and of course, Johnston's music, which is poetic, haunting and truly memorable. (Roxie Cinema, February 6, 7 p.m.)

For tickets or more information, please call 415-820-3907 or visit the IndieFest website at www.sfindie.com.



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Nail Salons May Contain Hidden Health Risks

(Continued from Page 12)

but it's not," Schmidt said.

She recently worked as a secret shopper inspecting a luxury salon in San Francisco and said she was appalled at the number of safety violations she witnessed.

Nail salons are largely left to themselves to implement health safeguards, unless consumers complain to the State Board of Cosmetology and Barbering.

"We encourage people to file complaints," said Patti Roberts, spokesperson for the State Board. With only 18 inspectors statewide, consumer complaints play a role in how inspectors are deployed. In December, for example, seven inspectors were sent to San Jose after skin infections broke out at nail salons.

The dearth of inspectors means there's little incentive for nail salons to upgrade their practices to avoid fines. And consumers don't want to pay more for the services.

"I wouldn't want to pay more if their equipment were safer. They should be in the first place," said a San Mateo woman who gets her nails done twice a month, who asked that her name be withheld.

Jessica Easterling, a former nail technician, said her experience working in salons cured her of ever wanting to get her nails done there. "The majority of nail salons I've seen barely clean up after the last customer before ushering the next

customer into the 'relaxing heat and massage chair/foot bath,'" she said. "The prospect of disease doesn't relax me in the least."

While the state can impose heavy fines for violations like working without a license or sloppy sanitation, it can do little to ensure workers' health and safety unless employees file complaints with Cal/OSHA, who conducts random inspections, but only in targeted high-risk industries, which currently doesn't include nail salons. Unless nail technicians complain, which is unlikely considering their immigrant status and close ties to employers, OSHA is unlikely to investigate their working conditions.

The Asian Law Caucus, the COHP, and the newly created Vietnamese Nail Care Professional Association (VNCPA) are trying to improve workers' conditions. Tin Nguyen, a son of nail professionals who founded the VNCPA in November, said change would only come from better communication, which his organization aims to improve by contacting salon owners, compiling an industry newsletter, and assisting workers with everything from form completion to communication with the State Board.

"They are really underserved, and the communication is just not there," he said. "Some chemicals are dangerous, and nail care professionals just don't know that."



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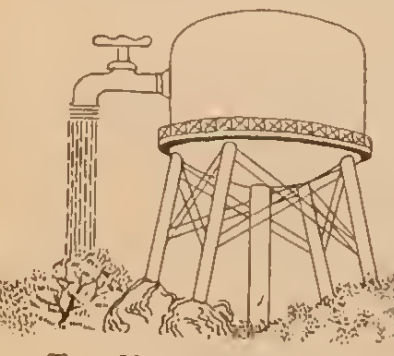
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